



Rocky Mountain Newsletter



2006-1

Denver, Colorado

January 2006



Robert M. Friend, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for MSHA

The **First Annual Joint Western Region Safety and Health Conference** was held in Reno, Nevada on November 1-4, 2005. Robert Friend was one of many outstanding keynote speakers at the conference attended by 350 industry and government employees.



(Chad Hymas – Evolution, From Legs to Wings)
Other Speakers included Chad Hymas, “Evolution, from Legs to Wings”, John

Drebing, “Mastering Safety Communications”, Elena Carr, “Steps to a Drug Free Workplace”. There were also 21 informative break-out discussion sessions presented by industry, vendors and MSHA personnel. A ceremony to honor Sentinel of Safety winners and to present awards was conducted on the last day of the conference.

Pictured below is a National Sentinel of Safety Award winner for Large Bank or Pit Group, Vulcan Materials, Sun Valley Sand and Gravel pictured below receiving their Sentinel of Safety Award certificate from Felix Quintana, Acting Administrator for MSHA.



The conference provided a stepping stone for industry and MSHA to enhance and develop partnerships towards working together to improve mine safety to achieve the common focus of zero fatalities, injuries, and illnesses.

All of the events from the golf tournament, Keynote Speakers, break-out sessions and Sentinel of Safety Award presentations were a great success. Congratulations to the planning committee for a successful safety and health conference! The Second Annual Joint Western Region Safety and Health Conference will be held in Phoenix, AZ. Please make plans to attend.

**MSHA Safety Slogan of the Month for
December 2005**
Life is a gift – wrap it in safety

Inspector Career Intern Program

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is looking for motivated professionals committed to ensuring the health and safety of our Nation's miners. If that describes you, attend one of our on-site employment screenings held throughout the United States to be considered for a Mine Safety and Health Inspector position. Upon successful completion of math and writing tests, you will be interviewed by MSHA managers and supervisors for possible employment opportunities. If you are selected, you will be hired as a Federal Career Intern and placed in a formal training program designed to prepare you for a career as a Mine Safety and Health Inspector.

Job Fair Locations

No job fairs are scheduled through March of 2006. Check the MSHA website for job fair scheduling. www.msha.gov
For more information, go to MSHA website.

**MSHA Safety Slogan of the Month for
November 2005**
**"Passion for Safety" is a "Love for
Life"**

SPRING THAW 2006
"TAKE TIME FOR SAFETY"

MSHA, in cooperation with various industry leaders, is co-sponsoring Spring Thaw workshops in 2006. The M/NM industry will host more than 45 cooperative mine safety and health workshops around the nation to increase awareness of mining hazards. Safety professionals from mining companies as well as MSHA personnel will share information and experiences in dealing with mining hazards. This year's workshops will focus their presentation around this year's theme of "Take Time For Safety". The seminars will coincide with winter's end, when many intermittently operated mining

operations begin producing again, often with new employees who are new to the mining environment. Statistics show that accidents tend to increase during April and May. There is no charge to attend the seminars.

Schedule for Workshops
Rocky Mountain District (Location & Dates)

ARIZONA

03/06/06 Mesa, AZ
East Valley Institute of Technology
For additional information contact the Mesa Field Office. Phone (480) 649-5452

COLORADO

02/15/06 Denver, Co
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 25, 1st Floor
Conference room
6th & Kipling

KANSAS

02/28/06 Hays, KS
Holiday Inn (785) 625-7371

03/02/06 Emporia, KS
Travel Lodge (620) 343-2200
Contact the Topeka Field Office for more information (785) 295-2636

MONTANA

02/14/06 Billings, MT
Hampton Inn
Contact the Helena Field Office for other workshop dates and locations. (406) 441-1180

NEBRASKA

02/23/06 Kearney, NE
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Contact Topeka, KS or the Rapid City, SD Field Office's for more information.
(785) 295 -2636 – Topeka
(605) 348-2076 – Rapid City

NORTH DAKOTA

01/24/06 Bismarck, ND
Civic Center
(605) 348 - 2076

SOUTH DAKOTA

02/10/06 Sioux Falls, SD
Best Western Ramkota
2400 N. Louise Ave

UTAH

Date TBA Price, UT
College of Eastern Utah

WYOMING

02/28/06 Casper, WY
Best Western, Ramkota Inn
800 North Poplar St.

Lafarge Cottonwood Pit wins International Health and Safety Initiative Award



The Lafarge Cottonwood Pit employees were recognized for the safety improvements that were made at their mine site. The Cottonwood Pit went from being one of the worst Lafarge properties in 2003/2004 year to being one of the best in 2004/2005 year. The employees accomplished this by taking ownership of safety at the mine, and identified the causes to Slip, Trip, and Fall Hazards, which had contributed to six reportable accidents. Once they identified the causes they also identified several improvements that could immediately improve safety. The crew at the mine made recommendations that were reviewed and were found to be low cost, simple, and easy to implement. As these ideas were implemented other improvement ideas were found and implemented as well. Among these ideas the crew developed a site specific "Slips, Trips, and Falls Safety Program". The result of their effort resulted in no reportable accidents for the 2004/2005 year.



Irvin T. Hooker, Rocky Mountain District Manager for MSHA, attended an award luncheon to acknowledge the effort of the Cottonwood Pit employees and the results of

their proactive approach to improve safety. The award is a Lafarge internal company award that is given to the most improved mining operation for Lafarge each year. The Cottonwood Pit was in competition with many of Lafarge's other operations from all around the globe.

Well Done Cottonwood Pit and Quarry Employees!!!

Snuggle up with a Seatbelt

ARLINGTON, VA. – October 2005

MSHA is concerned about a disturbing trend, miners not using their seatbelts. There have been 8 fatalities so far this year that could have been prevented. Some of the miners interviewed about their decision not to use a seatbelt said "I have to get in and out of the cab of this equipment all day long. It takes too much time to buckle up."

John Radomsky, MSHA's Accident Investigations Manager, said "I believe it is a habit. We need to remind each other when we see one of our fellow miners not wearing a seatbelt to buckle up! When we see someone forgetting to buckle up, we are obligated to remind them of the importance of wearing a seatbelt. This is why partnerships with the mining industry work so well. When we watch out for each other, we prevent injuries and fatalities. Our analysis of powered haulage fatalities in 2003/2004 show that three of these deaths were related to the failure to use a seatbelt. This proves to us that we can reduce these types of fatalities by focusing on reminding everyone of the importance of seatbelt use every time they operate a piece of equipment. MSHA's Alliance Partners have indicated that this is something they are working on in order to maintain those core safety principles. We value all of you. Please take the time to buckle up and if you see a miner that is not buckled up, remind that miner why they need to use their seatbelt."

MSHA Safety Slogan of the Month for October 2005

An ounce of prevention, a pound of common sense, leads to a ton of safety.

MINE ELEVATORS

Several entrapment accidents have occurred recently where mine elevators have stopped in the shaft hoist-way or have failed to properly align with the landing such that the doors would not open. Elevators at mines and preparation plants share equipment common to elevators found in office buildings, schools, and hospitals. If an elevator stops in the hoist-way, the safest course of action is to remain inside the elevator car. Elevators are equipped with a number of safety devices designed to prevent the elevator car from falling or running away. There have been two documented cases of an elevator car going into a free fall. One was during World War II, when an American bomber accidentally hit the Empire State Building and cut the elevator cables. The other was at a mine when a repair crew overloaded the elevator car during an attempt to change multiple cables at one time and caused the worn cables to snap. Another hazard is for the elevator car to over travel in the up direction and strike the head-frame.

BEST PRACTICES

Watch your step when entering and exiting the elevator.

- On elevators equipped with automatic doors do not interfere with the door operation
- On elevators equipped with manual doors, do not slam or force the doors
- If doors don't open, ring button, and/or use the telephone to call for qualified people who can assist
- Never try to leave a stalled car. You can easily fall down the elevator shaft if the car is not aligned with the landing
- Conduct the required daily examinations and two month safety catch tests

HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST CURRENT

As address corrections or deletions become necessary, please let us know. Changes and/or deletions should be submitted by identifying the 5-digit identification number shown in the upper left-hand corner of your mailing label.

Additions, changes, deletions should be sent to:

Mine Safety & Health Adm.
Jane Route: MSHA-M/NM
P.O. Box 25367, DFC
Denver, CO 80225-0367
(303) 231-5465 fax: (303) 231-5468
E-mail: route.jane@dol.gov



"Recent toxicology reports from mining accidents indicate the presence of drugs or alcohol in some of the victims," said David Dye, Acting Assistant Secretary of labor for MSHA. "Use or abuse of alcohol or drugs in the mining environment can significantly impair a miner's ability to focus on the task at hand and avoid the kinds of hazards that can maim or kill workers."

"Drug or alcohol abuse in mining by any one person puts the safety of all workers at risk," said Dye. "One impaired person can bring tragedy to many other innocent workers. Mining is a complicated and potentially hazardous occupation, and a clear focus by all mining company personnel is a key component of workplace safety."



**EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
"David Brown"**



David Brown started with MSHA in 1997 as a Metal/Nonmetal inspector in the Albany, Oregon field office. Dave came to the Rocky Mountain District to supervise the Mesa, AZ field office in 2005. Prior to MSHA, Dave worked in a variety of mining positions at all levels, including being a certified crane operator and mining with a yard logger in the northwest. Dave has worked diligently to improve the efficiency of the Mesa Field Office and develop a positive working relationship with the mine operators by working with the Arizona General Contractors Association on mining issues and by bringing in the MSHA Technical Support division to provide assistance to the copper mining industry.

Congratulations Dave!!!

**National Mine Rescue
Contest news**

The Metal/Nonmetal National Mine Rescue Contest has been scheduled for July 11th, 12th, and 13th at the Reno, Nevada Convention Center.



The majority of fatal accidents have these common root causes

- Failure to identify hazards
- Failure to manage risks

SLAM Risks!

Miners:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Stop | Think through the task |
| Look | Identify the hazards for each job step |
| Analyze | Determine if you have the proper knowledge, training, and tools |
| Manage | Remove or control hazards and use proper equipment |



Meet the new field office personnel

**Melvin Lapin
Mine safety and Health Inspector**



Melvin started with MSHA in October of 2005, in the Topeka, KS field office. Melvin started mining in 1975 in the surface aggregate industry. He has worked as an equipment operator, plant operator and safety director. Melvin is a past member of the Oregon Army National Guard. Melvin has been married to his wife Katheryn for 33 years and they have seven children.

***Yours in Safety,
Irvin Hooker,
District Manager***